



DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

I, Dana D. Branham declare that I am a citizen of the United States of America, residing at Garner, North Carolina; I, Andy R. Fowkes declare that I am a citizen of United Kingdom, residing at Clayton, North Carolina; I, Robert W. Hunter, Jr. declare that I am a citizen of the United States of America, residing at Wake Forest, North Carolina; and I, Paul E. Pottschmidt declare that I am a citizen of the United States of America, residing at Raleigh, North Carolina, and that we believe we are the original, first, and joint inventors of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

LINKAGE ASSEMBLY RESTRAINT

the specification of which was filed in the United States Patent and Trademark Office on November 10, 2003, as Application No. 10/705,343.

We hereby state that we have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims.

We acknowledge the duty to disclose to the Patent and Trademark Office all information known to be material to patentability as defined in §1.56. We further declare that no application for patent or inventor's certificate on this invention has been filed in any country foreign to the United States of America prior to this application by us or our legal representatives or assigns.

We hereby appoint Todd A. Benni, Patent Office Reg. No. 42,313, telephone (309) 675-4280, J. Wesley Blumenshine, Patent Office Reg. No. 32,399, telephone (309) 675-5537, J. W. Keen, Patent Office Reg. No. 28,432, telephone (309) 675-5753, and Dennis C. Skarvan, Patent Office Reg. No. 35,360, telephone (309) 675-6060, our attorneys and/or agents, with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected with this application. Please address all correspondence to: Todd A. Benni, Caterpillar Inc., Intellectual Property Department, AB6490, 100 N.E. Adams Street, Peoria, Illinois 61629-6490.

We hereby declare that all statements made herein of our own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements are made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Dana D. Branham 2/2/04
DANA D. BRANHAM Date
Post Office Address:
120 Dullis Circle
Garner, North Carolina 27529

Andy R. Fowkes 02-10-04
ANDY R. FOWKES Date
Post Office Address:
608 Birkdale Drive
Clayton, North Carolina 27520

Robert W. Hunter, Jr. 2-12-04
ROBERT W. HUNTER, JR. Date
Post Office Address:
600 Middle Bridge Road
Wake Forest, North Carolina 27587

Paul E. Pottschmidt 2-2-04
PAUL E. POTTSCHMIDT Date
Post Office Address:
7601-B Wildercrest Road
Raleigh, North Carolina 27613
526 VATERSAY DRIVE PEP. 2-2-04
APEX, NC 27502